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NORTHUMBERLAND

R E P O R T S

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- and the -

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1941.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

- of the -

CASTLE WARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I herewith beg to submit to you my Fortieth Annual Report on the health of the district for the year ending December 31st, 1941.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	88,827
Population	13,910
Number of inhabited houses	3,582
Rateable Value	£85,697
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£330

The two main occupations in the area are coal mining and agricultural, the coal mining being practically restricted to the Eastern portion.

Vital Statistics.

Births.

Number of births registered during the year was 172 compared with 178 in 1940.

	M.	F.
Legitimate	78	75
Illegitimate	5	4
Total:	83	79

Birth Rate:- 12.7 per 1000 per annum compared with 12.6 per 1000 per annum in 1940.

Birth Rate for England and Wales in 1941 was 14.2 per 1000 per annum.

Still Births.

	M.	F.
Legitimate	1	2
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total:	1	2

Total rate per 1000 (Live and Still) 13.0 per 1000 per annum compared with 13.1 per 1000 per annum in 1940.

Deaths.

The total number of deaths registered during the year was 129, compared with 118 in 1940.

Death Rate:- 9.0 per 1000 per annum compared with 8.3 per 1000 per annum in 1940.

The death rate for England and Wales in 1941 was 12.9 per 1000 per annum.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis and other Puerperal Causes.

There were no deaths under this heading.

Infantile Mortality.

The total number of deaths under one year was 7 compared with 6 in 1940.

	M	F
Legitimate	2	5
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil
Total:	2	5

Death Rate of all Infants under one year of age per 1000 Live Births was 40.6 compared with 33.7 in 1940.

Death Rate for England and Wales in 1941 was 59 per 1000 Live Births.

Deaths from Cancer.

During the year there have been 18 deaths from this cause compared with 17 in 1940.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	... ...	Nil.
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ...	Nil.
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	Nil.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. (A) Medical. - Part time Medical Officer of Health.
(B) Others. - Sanitary Inspector with Assistant both having certificates of Royal Sanitary Institute.
Also act as Inspectors of Dairies and Cowsheds, Meat Inspector and the carrying out of the Housing Scheme under the Housing Acts.

2. Laboratory Facilities.
The examination or analysis of Clinical Material (sputum, swabs, etc.) and milk is under the control of the County Council.

3. Nursing in the Home:-
(A) General. - Most of the district is supplied with nurses having the C.M.B. qualification and supplied by the County Nursing Association, the funds being provided by voluntary contributions, with the addition in some instances of small fees. In some cases grants are made by the Ministry of Health.
Your Council have no authority over this.

(B) Infectious Diseases. - No special nursing is available.

4. Hospitals.
(A) Infectious Disease. - West Northumberland Joint Infectious Hospital situated at Lemington. Takes in cases from Gosforth, Newburn, Prudhoe, and Hexham Urban Districts,and from Hexham and Castle Ward Rural Districts. 68 beds.
(B) Smallpox. - Cases occurring in this area are sent to Newcastle upon Tyne Smallpox Hospital.
(C) Tuberculosis. - Provided by the Northumberland County Council, also the Children's Sanatorium at Stannington.
(D) General Medical and Surgical. - Treated in the various hospitals in Newcastle upon Tyne.
(E) Maternity. - Where necessary, in Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, except those in receipt of relief or destitute, who are admitted to the Poor Law Institution, Tynemouth.

5. Ambulance Facilities:-
(1) Infectious Cases. - Removed by respective hospital authorities.
(2) Non-Infectious and Accident Cases. - No facilities provided by your Council, the cases being removed by ambulances provided by collieries or privately.

6. Clinics and Treatment Centres:-
Infant Welfare Centres at Dinnington Colliery and Ponteland and Dinnington Village under the control of the County Council.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	8	7	Nil
Diphtheria	19	19	Nil
ø Enteric Fever	16	16	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	13	Nil	6
Erysipelas	Nil	Nil	Nil
Anterior Polio-Myolitis ...	1	1	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	4	4	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonotorum ...	1	Nil	Nil
TOTAL:	63	47	6

ø These cases are all Institutional.

In addition to the above, 122 cases of Whooping Cough and 81 cases of Measles were notified during the year. There were no deaths from these diseases.

Scarlet Fever.
Eight cases notified compared with twenty-three in 1940.

Diphtheria.
Nineteen cases notified during the year compared with eighteen in 1940. There were no deaths from this cause.

They occurred in the following areas :-

Cheeseburn Grange	4
Stannington Sanatorium	5
Cottage Homes - Ponteland	2
Gateshead Mental Hospital, Stannington	2
Military Hospital - Stannington	1
Low Gosforth House (Army)	1
Heddon Steads	1
Land Settlements - Stannington	2
Prestwick	1
TOTAL:	19

From the analysis of these figures, if the cases occurring in Institutions and the Army, it will be seen that there were only four cases occurred inside.

There was only one immunised person took Diphtheria, and she was immunised in 1936, and had a very mild attack.

Printed leaflets have been circulated to all the parents of children in the Elementary Schools in the area, pointing out the necessity for Immunisation, which met with a very good response.

Eight hundred and fifteen children were immunised during the year.
On enquiring from the schoolmaster in the district, at the present time over 90% of the school children have been immunised.

Tuberculosis.

During the year nine cases of Tuberculosis have been notified, all being due to Pulmonary, two of these cases occurring when in the Navy and one in the Army. There were seven deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and two from other forms of Tuberculosis during the year.

School Closure.

No schools have been closed during the year on account of Infectious Disease or any other cause.

Bacteriological Examinations.

During the year the following Bacteriological Examinations have been made.

Sputa for B. Tuberculosis,	26	...	2	positive.
Swabs for B. Diphtheria,	229	...	20	do.
Blood for Agglutination,	2			
Miscellaneous Specimens,	191			
Milk for B. Tuberculosis,	16		1	do.
Milk for Cleanliness test,	87			
Samples of Water,	24			

FACTORIES.

The various Factories and Workshops have been inspected during the year.

There are no underground bake-houses, and no outworkers in the District.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) WILLMOT HOLMES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

June 30th, 1942.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1941.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In submitting this my third annual report on the work of the Sanitary Department I do so bearing in mind the desire of the Ministry of Health that during War time such reports should be made more with a view to establishing continuity than by going into great detail as to the sanitary conditions of the district.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

Owing to the continued difficult conditions due to the National Emergency it has only been possible to give attention to the most essential and more urgent matters likely to affect the health and welfare of the general public. House repairs were very difficult but the best use has been made of the material and labour available to get the most necessary repairs carried out.

HOUSING.

During the year several plans were submitted for buildings to be constructed of short-lived materials; most of these were rejected as no provision had been made for a proper water supply or sanitary arrangements. Five were approved and Temporary Licences issued, renewable each year. Three hostels for Agricultural workers have been erected and occupied during the year,

WATER SUPPLIES.

There were no extensions of the Newcastle & Gateshead Water Company's mains during the year in the Council's area.

At Kirkheaton the supply failed and water had to be pumped from the lower spring. The distribution in the village is still unsatisfactory as no scheme has yet been approved for the renewal of the pipes mentioned in last year's report.

At Stamfordham the spear rods of the deep well pump broke and the opportunity was taken to have the pump properly overhauled.

At Ogle Village water was found in the new bore hole at a depth of 450 ft. A new storage tank and deep well pump are being installed.

During the year several samples of water were submitted for Bacteriological examination and in some cases owners were asked to carry out such works as were possible to safeguard and improve the supplies.

SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS.

The Dinnington East Works have been overhauled, the distributor repaired, walls to the filter bed built, together with new sludge beds and new media provided.

At the Burn Close works the Colliery Company have provided a pump to raise the effluent to the stream.

Heddon North works were reconditioned and extra filtering media provided.

Negotiations have commenced with the Air Ministry for the enlargement of the Woolsington Works.

SEWERAGE.

A length of new 9 inch sewer has been constructed at Low Gosforth Building Estate and connected to the Gosforth Sewage Scheme for pumping to the Seaton Valley Drainage Board's trunk sewer.

All the sewers in the district continue to receive regular attention and are functioning satisfactorily.

SCAVENGING.

There have been no extensions to the scavenging areas during the year. All the work was done by contract and was fairly well carried out, except in the wintry weather when there was some delay in the collections.

SALVAGE.

A fair amount of material was collected and disposed of during the year but the income did not meet the expenses owing to the amount of labour and haulage needed to cover the district.

Surveys were made for the Ministry of Supply of all derelict buildings likely to yield a supply of scrap steel, and also of all the unnecessary railings within the area.

SHELTERS.

During the year 49 Communal Shelters were built at Dinnington Colliery and Hazlerigg. A scheme for Heddon and Stamfordham was cancelled owing to the restriction imposed on building operations.

Negotiations were commenced with the Shelters Officer for a supply of Indoor Shelters for the more vulnerable parts of the area.

REPAIR OF WAR DAMAGE.

Whilst the district has not suffered severely from this, I wish to pay tribute to the ready help given by the local builders when called upon.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Following a report to the Council and some comments in the press on the general condition of the dairies and cowsheds in the district, an Inspector from the Ministry of Health made an inspection of a number of Dairies and Cowsheds but no report was received.

At the request of the County Medical Officer of Health a detailed inspection as to Structural, Lighting, Ventilation and General Conditions of Cowsheds and Dairies registered under the Milk (Special Designation) Orders 1936 and 1938 was made and recorded on special record cards. This will be extended to all such premises when time and conditions permit.

There are 102 registered cowkeepers in the district, of whom 38 hold licences from the County Council as producers of Designated Milk.

The present difficulties still preclude the carrying out of any schemes of improvement due to lack of man power and materials.

The additional ploughing out and shortage of skilled labour is still one of the milk producers major problems.

A more comprehensive programme of milk sampling was introduced than previously. The sampling is restricted to producers of undesignated milk to avoid overlapping, as the County Council Inspectors sample the designated milk.

Appended are the known number of samples taken inside and outside this district from milk produced in the area. I am indebted to the County Council and Newcastle C.B. for supplying information.

Samples collected within District.

Designated	63 of which	41 or 65.08%	were satisfactory.
Undesignated	91 " "	46 or 50.55%	" "

Samples collected in Newcastle.

Designated	70 of which	47 or 67.15%	were satisfactory.
Undesignated	64 " "	40 or 62. 5%	" "

Summary.

288 samples taken: 174 or 60.42% satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are no slaughter houses in use and meat consumed in the district is sent in from the Ministry of Food Pool and inspected regularly.

As in the previous year, a considerable amount of time has been taken up with Civil Defence Work, the dealing with circulars and orders, the preparation of returns for various departments and attending to the general public on matters arising out of war time conditions.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman, Members, and other Officers of the Council, also my staff for their co-operation and help during the year.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) JAMES BOLTON.

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